

**Town of Milton
Town Council Special Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2005**

Mayor John Bushey called the special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Milton Fire Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor John Bushey
Councilwoman Leah Betts
Councilman Don Post
Councilman Noble Prettyman
Councilwoman Ronda Melson
Councilman Jerry Hudson
Councilman Gene Dvornick

ABSENT: Councilman Jerry Hudson (family emergency)

Others Present: Harold Godwin, Town Manager
Gina Jennings, Finance
Eric Evans, Code Enforcement
Robin Davis, Maintenance
John Cornwell, Police
Stephanie Coulbourne, Code Enforcement Assistant
Dawn Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Tim Willard, Town Attorney
Tom Sombar, Town Auditor

Denny Hughes, Finance Committee
Richard Greig, Finance Committee
Norman Lester, Finance Committee

Consideration of Proposed 2006 Budget

Mayor Bushey opened the meeting and turned the floor over to Councilman Dvornick. Councilman Dvornick gave a power point presentation regarding the budget. The Town Manager and Gina Jennings met with the Department Heads and then met with the Finance Committee.

Mayor Bushey asked Councilman Dvornick to go over the budget, line by line. Mayor Bushey asked a question about depreciation expenses. Councilman Dvornick noted that it is just “using up of assets.”

Mayor Bushey asked if outsourcing payroll is really necessary. Town Manager Godwin stated that it is; it has cut down considerably on staff time doing payroll.

Mayor Bushey still has some concerns regarding the use of transfer tax to supplement budget expenses.

Councilman Post noted that he has concerns regarding personnel. The State got 5% this year; they usually get 3%. The increases in the Town budget range from 0 to 40%. Increases should be based on performance evaluations. If the employee doesn't get a bad evaluation, they should get an increase. Also, the Administrative Assistant position for the Police Department should be full-time.

Mayor Bushey stated that the budget is required to be presented to Town Council 60 days prior to adoption. That way, any of these types of questions can be answered prior to now.

After considerable discussion and deliberation, Councilman Dvornick made a **motion** to add a full-time officer to the Police Department and make the Assistant full-time. Councilwoman Melson asked if the Assistant is made full-time what her pay would. It was decided that her pay would be the same as the Accounting Clerk. Councilman Post made reference to State salaries and noted that an Accountant II only makes \$30,000 to start and an Accounting Specialist starts at \$25,600. He would prefer a more fair pay structure. He can't justify 0 – 40% increases. That is not fair. The motion was seconded due to more discussion, and it was decided that this would be expanded on more in Executive Session since pay/personnel was being discussed.

Councilwoman Betts made a **motion** to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Prettyman. Council went into Executive Session at 8:44 p.m.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Councilman Prettyman made a **motion**, seconded by Councilwoman Betts to come out of Executive Session.

Motion carried – “Aye”

There was discussion regarding Capital Improvements.

Mayor Bushey told Staff Sgt. Cornwell to proceed to order the police car and send the bill to Sussex County Council.

Councilwoman Betts asked if there was money in budget (\$15,000) for sidewalks?

Councilman Post asked if the Capital Expenditures were rolled into the budget? Mayor Bushey stated that the Capital Improvements are not included.

Councilman Dvornick made a **motion** to approve the budget as presented with adjustments, including those discussed in Executive Session. Councilman Prettyman seconded the motion.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Council thanked the Finance Committee for their help.

Adjournment

Councilman Prettyman made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Melson.

Motion carried – “Aye”

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Johnson
Administrative Assistant

:10/5/05